

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A data decoding device comprising:
encryption key extracting means for extracting a portion of
compressed data, acquired by compressing data by a compression
processing, as ~~the~~ encryption key data;

5 encryption means for encrypting the compressed data by
changing the portion, extracted as the encryption key data, of
the compressed data; and

compressed data decoding means for decoding the ~~combined~~
encrypted data back to the compressed data ~~before encryption~~ by
10 combining the encryption key data and the ~~compressed~~ encrypted
data ~~after encryption~~, both of which ~~are~~ have been generated from
the same compressed data.

8. (Currently Amended) An image data storing device
comprising:

compression means for compressing image data by a
compression processing;

5 encryption key extracting means for extracting a portion of
the compressed data ~~acquired by compressing the image data by the~~
~~compression means~~, as encryption key data;

encryption means for encrypting the compressed data by
changing the portion, extracted as the encryption key data, of
10 the compressed data;

encryption key storing means for storing the encryption key
data extracted by the encryption key extracting means;

encrypted data storing means for storing the encrypted data
acquired by encrypting the compressed data by the encryption
15 means;

management information storing means for storing management
information showing correspondence between the encryption key
data and the encrypted data both of which ~~are~~ have been acquired
from the same compressed data;

20 compressed data decoding means ~~that extracts for: (i)~~
extracting the encryption key data and the encrypted data, both
of which ~~are~~ have been acquired from the same compressed data,
from the encryption key storing means and the encrypted data
storing means ~~on the basis of~~ based on the management information
25 stored in the management information storing means, ~~and combines~~
~~them to decode them~~ (ii) combining and decoding the extracted
encryption key data and the extracted encrypted data back to the
~~original~~ compressed data; and

expansion means for expanding the compressed data decoded by
30 the compressed data decoding means back to the image data ~~before~~
compression.

9. (Original) The image data storing device according to claim 8, wherein the encryption means replaces the portion, extracted as the encryption key data, of the compressed data with data different from the encryption key data.

10. (Original) The image data storing device according to claim 8, wherein the encryption means deletes the portion, extracted as the encryption key data, of the compressed data.

11. (Original) The image data storing device according to claim 8, wherein the encryption means adds other data to the portion, extracted as the encryption key data, of the compressed data.

12. (Currently Amended) The image data storing device according to claim 8, wherein a predetermined range from the a beginning of the compressed data is made the encryption key data.

13. (Currently Amended) An image data storing device comprising:

compression means for compressing image data by a compression processing;

5 encryption key extracting means for extracting a portion of
the compressed data ~~acquired by compressing the image data by the~~
~~compression means,~~ as encryption key data;

encryption means for encrypting the compressed data by
changing the portion, extracted as the encryption key data, of
10 the compressed data;

encrypted data storing means for storing the encrypted data
acquired by encrypting the compressed data by the encryption
means; and

15 decoding information outputting means for outputting the
encryption key data extracted by the encryption key extracting
means and specific information ~~for specifying~~ which identifies
the encrypted data corresponding to ~~this~~ the encryption key data
~~in association with each other~~ in a predetermined form to an
external user.

14. (Currently Amended) The image data storing device
according to claim 13, further comprising:

5 decoding information inputting means for inputting the
encryption key data and the specific information ~~associated with~~
~~this~~;

compressed data decoding means ~~that extracts~~ for : (i)
extracting the encrypted data corresponding to the specific
information, input through the decoding information inputting

means, from the encrypted data storing means, and ~~combines (ii)~~
10 ~~combining and decoding~~ the encrypted data with and the input
encryption key data ~~to decode the combined encrypted data back to~~
the compressed data ~~before encryption~~; and

expansion means for expanding the compressed data decoded by
the compressed data decoding means back to the image data ~~before~~
15 ~~compression~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The image data storing device
according to claim 13, wherein the compression processing is a
processing ~~by which if even a portion of compressed data is not~~
~~correct, whereby~~ the compressed data cannot be expanded if the
5 portion of the compressed data is changed.

16. (Original) The image data storing device according to
claim 13, wherein the encryption means replaces the portion,
extracted as the encryption key data, of the compressed data with
data different from the encryption key data.

17. (Original) The image data storing device according to
claim 13, wherein the encryption means deletes the portion,
extracted as the encryption key data, of the compressed data.

18. (Original) The image data storing device according to claim 13, wherein the encryption means adds other data to the portion of the compressed data extracted as the encryption key data.

19. (Currently Amended) The image data storing device according to claim 13, wherein a predetermined range from ~~the~~ a beginning of the compressed data is made the encryption key data.

20. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

reading means for reading an original document to capture image data corresponding ~~thereto~~ to the original document;

5 compression means for compressing the image data by a compression processing;

encryption key extracting means for extracting a portion of the compressed data ~~, acquired by compressing the image data by the compression means~~; as encryption key data;

10 encryption means for encrypting the compressed data by changing the portion, extracted as the encryption key data, of the compressed data;

encryption key storing means for storing the encryption key data extracted by the encryption key extracting means;

15 encrypted data storing means for storing the encrypted data
acquired by encrypting the compressed data by the encryption
means;

management information storing means for storing management
information showing correspondence between the encryption key
20 data and the encrypted data both of which ~~are~~ have been acquired
from the same compressed data;

compressed data decoding means ~~that extracts~~ for : (i)
extracting the encryption key data and the encrypted data, both
of which ~~are~~ have been acquired from the same compressed data,
25 from the encryption key storing means and the encrypted data
storing means ~~on the basis of~~ based on the management information
stored in the management information storing means, ~~and combines~~
~~them to decode them~~ (ii) combining and decoding the extracted
encryption key data and the extracted encrypted data back to the
30 ~~original~~ compressed data;

expansion means for expanding the compressed data decoded by
the compressed data decoding means back to the image data ~~before~~
compression; and

printing means for forming and outputting an image
35 corresponding to the expanded image data on a recording paper.